This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:
   a) a pharmaceutically active amount of erythropoietin;
   b) a pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering agent to provide a pH in a range of about pH 6 to about pH 9;
   c) a tonicity agent in a concentration range of about 0 to about 200 millimolar; and
   d) sodium carboxymethyl ether cellulose in a concentration range of about 0.5% to about 7% total formula weight, said CMC having a molecular weight in a range of about 50,000 daltons to about 1,000,000 daltons.

2. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the erythropoietin is selected from a group consisting of recombinant human erythropoietin, epoietin alfa, epoietin omega, darbepoetin alfa, and PEG conjugated erythropoietin.

3. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the pH buffering agent concentration is in the range of about 10 mM to about 30 mM and wherein the pH buffering agent is a sodium phosphate monobasic / sodium phosphate dibasic buffer system.

4. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the tonicity agent is selected from a group consisting of NaCl, KCl, and glycine.

5. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the tonicity agent is NaCl and the NaCl concentration is about 75 mM to about 125 mM.

6. (Original) The formulation of claim 1 wherein the pH of the formulation is in the range of about 6.5 to about 7.4.

7 – 19. Canceled.